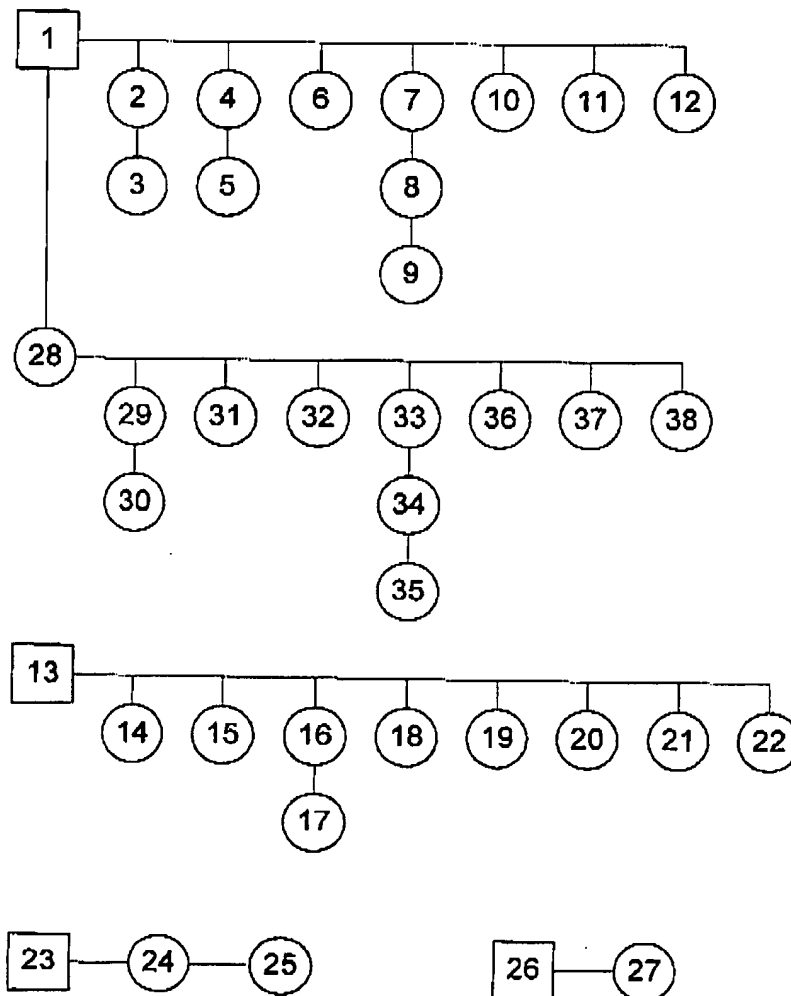


In re Application of PARKES et al.
Application No. 09/436,618

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. An Office action mailed March 10, 2004 is pending in the application. Applicants have carefully considered the Office action and the references of record. In the Office action, claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). In this response to the Office action, claims 1, 13, 23 and 26 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-38 are pending in the application. The following diagram depicts the relationship between the independent and dependent claims.



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Examiner Interview and Claim Rejections Under U.S.C. § 103 of the Independent Claims

Applicants thank Examiner Ali for the courtesy of a telephone interview on April 7, 2004 to discuss the Office action mailed March 10, 2004. Applicants were represented by Messrs. Dodson and Conklin. During the interview, proposed amendments to independent claim 1 were discussed with respect to the teachings of newly cited art U.S. Patent No. 6,633,897 to Browning et al. (hereinafter *Browning*). As recorded in the Interview Summary (paper number 11), agreement was reached during the interview that the proposed amendments to independent claim 1, which are formally presented herein, distinguish the claimed invention from the teachings of *Browning* alone or in combination with previously cited art. Independent claims 13, 23 and 26 are amended herein to similarly distinguish the claimed invention from the teachings of *Browning*. Each of claims 1, 13, 23 and 26 is thus allowable.

The Remaining Dependent Claims

Each of claims 1, 13, 23 and 26 is in independent form, whereas all of the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly on one of these four independent claims. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons that the four independent claims 1, 13, 23 and 26 are allowable in that the dependent claims incorporate the features of the independent claims. Nevertheless, the dependent claims further define subject matter not shown or rendered obvious by the prior art of record. Because the independent claims are allowable over the applied prior art, applicants do not believe remarks addressing this further subject matter are necessary herein.

CONCLUSION

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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